Price control on imported drugs

2216. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has brought 26 drugs under price control which are being imported in the country;

(b) what are the names of drugs which are being produced as well as imported in the country;

(c) what are the names of producers and what was the production of each during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) what is the indigenous price of each and what price was communicated by each before the drugs were brought under price control;

(e) whether it is a fact that CIF Prices of all the drugs went up substantially after 1987 when these drugs were price decontrolled;

(f) whether it is a fact that most of the imports are over-invoiced; and

(g) what was CIF Price of each drug imported during 1986-87 and what is their present price?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) and (g) The requisite information to the extent available is given in the annexed statement. [*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 76].

(f) Out of the 26 bulk drugs brought under price control, one instance of over invoicing has come to the notice of the Government on which appropriate action has been taken.

Institutional arrangements for drug Prices Equalisation Accounts

2217. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Price Equalisation Account exists in several industries such as Aluminium Steel, Fertilizer, etc.

(b) whether it is also a fact that institutional arrangements have been developed in such cases to operate these accounts;

(c) whether it is a fact that under 1978 Drug Policy the creation of a separate post of Development Commissioner (Drugs) was suggested;

(d) whether it is a fact that such an arrangement was not developed;

(e) whether it is a fact that due to abolition of Drugs Equalisation Account the interest of consumer and bulk drugs producers suffer;

(f) whether his Ministry is considering such an account under the review of policy; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Price Equalisation Accounts exist under certain orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 like Iron and Steel (Control) Order, Aluminium Control Order etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. Initially a separate incumbent was appointed to man the post of Development Commissioner (Drugs) but

subsequently the post of Joint Secretary (Drugs) in the Ministry and Development Commissioner (Drugs) were merged due to operational difficulties.

(e) to (g) Entire policy is under review. Such a review would entail examination of the merits of the provision relating to Drug Prices Equalisation Account, as well.

Liberalisation of price control on drugs

2218. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express of the 14th August, 1990 captioned 'Total Decontrol of drugs rules out';

(b) whether it is a fact that liberation of price control has neither increased the production of drugs nor checked the increase in their prices of medicines;

(c) whether it is a fact that both the objectives were achieved under DPCO, 1979;

(d) if so, on what basis and data the industry is advocating liberalisation;

(e) whether it is a fact that all those drugs which have been wrongly excluded are being scrutinised; and

(f) if so, by when the scrutiny would be completed and rectification done?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By and large there have been increase in the production of drugs. There have been increase in prices of drugs based on changes in input costs. There have also been reduction in prices of medicines wherever such reductions were justified.

(c) There has been steadiness in prices as well as production of drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

(d) Existing Drug policy is under review and various view points have been put across to the Govt. for consideration.

(e) and (f) The process of scrutiny by the Standing Committee is still on. Government has already put 26 bulk drugs under price control recently.

Price control on Oxyphenbutazone and Phenylbutazone

2219. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kelkar Committee observed in its Supplementary Report that though Oxyphenbutazone and Phenylbutazone do not fufil any exclusion criteria but committee is not recommending these drugs for price control as the same are being banned for consumption due to their hazardous effects;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that no action has been taken to ban these drugs even after a lapse of two years; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.